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HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1944.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

In presenting my annual report for the year 1944 I have complied with the instructions laid down by the Ministry of Health in Circular 49/45 dated 19th March, 1945.

There have been no changes in the general provisions of health services for the area. The legislation in force in the area has remained the same.

There have been no marked changes or developments in the sanitary circumstances of the area during the year. For details see Sanitary Inspectors' Reports. The water supply was satisfactory in quantity and quality during the year. Twenty-eight examinations were made for plumbo solvency, twenty-seven of these were satisfactory and one unsatisfactory.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1944, 243 children were immunised against diphtheria, of these 220 were children under five years of age, and 23 were children aged between five and fifteen years. I estimate that between 85 and 90 per cent of children in the Holmfirth district have now been immunised against diphtheria. This prophylactic treatment is offered by the Government free of charge to all children. In order to take advantage of it, all the parents have to do is to take their child to their own doctor or to the Medical Officer of Health.

FLOOD.

In the evening of May 29th a severe flood occurred in the district. This raised a number of immediate problems for the sanitary authority which had to be dealt with, such as the evacuation, housing, feeding and clothing of about 100 persons whose houses had been flooded and their possessions destroyed. The clearing of water and debris from houses, shops, roads, and both public and private places had to be watched, and the inspection and replacement of damaged foodstuffs carried out. As some of the main sewers had been washed away and many of the connections into them destroyed, some anxiety was felt lest there should be an outbreak of enteric disease, particularly as many people were working in and out of the river. We were fortunate in possessing such war time local organisations as the Civil Defence Services, Women's Voluntary Services, National Fire Service, British Restaurant and mobile canteens, and my thanks as M.O.H. are due to all those members of these services who voluntarily turned out to help, and to the many private citizens who also assisted to clear up their town and to help their fellow townsmen. Many visits, much advice and some help was received from the various representatives of different Ministries, and the West Riding County Council. Valuable help was given by the Regional Rescue Parties, and mobile canteens from Huddersfield and Wakefield, with the result that the immediate results of the flood were quite soon repaired. I am pleased to be able to report that no epidemic disease occurred as a result of the flooding. There were only a few cases of colds, laryngitis, lumbago and some minor injuries which became septic as a direct result of it. The work of restoring the sewers had been completed by the end of the week. The problem of the damaged houses and the rehousing of the families who lived in them still remains. Some houses that could

easily be rendered habitable were soon dealt with, and the tenants are living in them, but 10 houses at Scar Fold and 4 at Victoria which were of a very poor type before the flood damage are still unfit for human habitation. Closing Orders have been made on the 10 houses at Scar Fold. This has tended to make the housing shortage more acute and rendered the billeting of evacuees more difficult.

EVACUATION.

During July, the Government reintroduced their Evacuation Scheme and two batches of evacuees containing 81 and 96 respectively arrived in the district at short notice. These were temporarily fed and housed at the Rest Centres at Holmfirth and New Mill until billets could be found for them. As a result of this and of persons who had privately evacuated themselves, the number of evacuees in the district rose from 186 (37 adults and 149 children) in May to 624 (223 adults and 401 children) in August.

This figure had fallen to 283 (104 adults and 179 children) by the end of the year.

APPENDIX 1.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Population (estimated 1944)	17,630
Area	17,565 acres.
Rateable Value.	£90,896
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£366.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1,000 population.
Holmfirth	298	155	143	16.90
	(288	151	137	16.33 legitimate
	(10	4	6	0.56 illegitimate

STILL BIRTHS.				Rate per 1,000 popln.
Holmfirth	11	7	4	0.62
	(10	6	4	0.56 legitimate
	(1	1	0	0.05 illegitimate

DEATHS.				Crude death rate per 1,000 population.
Holmfirth.	244	107	137	13.84

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 births.
From Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
From other Puerperal causes	1	3.23

Death rate of Infants under one year.

	Total.	Male.	Female
Legitimate	10	8	2
Illegitimate	0	0	0

	Total Death Rate.	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.
Holmfirth	33.55	34.72	0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	34

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

HOLMFIRTH AREA.

The Chairman and Members
of the Holmfirth U.D.C.

Gentlemen,

I herewith furnish statement of the sanitary work done, coming under my notice and supervision during 1944.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.	1944.
Number of inspections made during 1944	189
Number of Cowsheds registered	87

Nuisances.	
Number of inspections during 1944	332
" reported during 1944	17
" in hand at close of 1943	-
" needing abatement	17
" abated during 1944	14
" outstanding at close of 1944	3
" informal notices served	14
" " " complied with	14
" statutory notices served	3
" statutory notices complied with	-

Meat inspections.

Although the bulk of the meat supply is centrally dealt with at the Huddersfield Corporation Abattoir and transferred into this area, a large number of pigs have been slaughtered privately in this district which have been inspected.

Sewerage and Drainage.

No specific developments of sewer or drains during 1944.

Closet accommodation.

Number of pail closets in district at close of 1944	56
" " privies with covered middens	869
" " privies converted into water closets during 1944	3
" " additional water closets provided to old property during 1944	6
" " water closets in district at close of 1944	1908

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and members of the Health and Housing Committee, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman and members of the Evacuation Committee, and all officials of the Council for their valuable assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Sam Bray

Sanitary Inspector and
Chief Billeting Officer.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent's Annual Report.

May, 1945.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to place before you my annual report on the Sanitary and Cleansing Department of the district during the year 1944.

A summary of inspections made are as follows:-

Nuisances	489
Houses	59
Cowsheds	245
Meat and other foods	260
Workshops	12
Factories	27
Bakehouses	12
Houses & schools disinfected	31
Informal notices served	106
" " complied with	105
Statutory notices served	nil
" " complied with	nil

Farms and Cowsheds.

The cows and cowsheds in the district have been found to be in a clean condition and samples of milk have been taken for bacteriological examination and good results have been obtained.

Meat Inspections.

The whole of the meat supply to the butchers is sent from Huddersfield and allocated from Swan Bank, Holmfirth. Approximately 280 pigs have been slaughtered on licence from the Food Committee at various premises in the New Mill and Honley area and have been inspected. Arising out of these inspections: 13 heads, 5 plucks, and 70 lbs. of Offals have been condemned and destroyed.

Public Cleansing Service.

This work has been done satisfactorily although considerable difficulty has been experienced during the past year in maintaining the motor vehicles, but it has not been necessary to engage outside transport.

There was a great deal of extra work handled by the men and lorries of this Department in connection with the Flood of Whit-Monday last.

The approximate weight of refuse removed is as follows:-

Berry Banks tip	3,240
Honley destructor	1,206
Syke Bottom & Foster Place	1,194

Salvage.

The quantity of salvaged materials collected from April 1st, 1944 to March 31st, 1945 and the amount realised from the sale of this material is as follows:-

P.T.O.

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£. s. d.
Kitchen waste	67	14	0	101. 1. 0
Waste Paper	118	7	1	767.11.11
Black Scrap	17	8	2	70. 0. 1
Tins	57	9	1	70.15. 1
Other Metals		2	2	2. 6. 4
Textiles	7	15	2	93. 8. 4
Bottles		7	3	1.15. 0
Bones	2	10	0	12. 0.10
	271.	14.	3	£1118.18. 7
Carriage charges				131.12. 3
				£1250.10.10

By comparison with the previous years these weights and values show a decrease. The collection of kitchen waste was commenced on June 2nd, 1944, and a gradual weekly increase has been maintained, but the cost of collection is still in excess of income.

In conclusion, my thanks are due to the Chairman and Committees and to all officials of the Council for their valuable assistance.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

IRVIN HAIGH.

Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There was no serious influenza epidemic during 1944 though the few cases that occurred were of a virulent type. There were three deaths from this disease compared with 18 in 1943. In November the First Aid Post, Holmfirth was closed and since then there have been no public arrangements for the treatment of Scabies. Prior to November, 117 cases of Scabies had been treated at the F.A.P., a reduction in the number of cases from previous years, and there is reason to believe that the disease is dying out.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

191 cases of notifiable infectious disease were notified to me during 1944 compared with 379 in 1943. Excluding cases notified under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939, there were 61 cases of other infectious disease, compared with 109 in 1943 and 54 in 1942. These were comprised as follows:-

Scarlet Fever	36	Acute Anterior Poleomelitis	1
Pneumonia	9	Measles	123
Diphtheria	5	Whooping Cough	7
Erysipelas	7	Dysentery	1
Para Typhoid B.	1	Opthalmia Neonatorum	1

In addition, 1 case of disease was notified to me as diphtheria and later proved not to be due to B.Diphtheria.

Scarlet Fever.

36 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. 34 were isolated in hospital and there were no deaths from this disease. These cases were scattered throughout the district during the whole of the year, there being 12 from Holmfirth, 10 from Honley, 10 from New Mill, and 4 from Holme.

Diphtheria.

Six cases of diphtheria were notified to me during the year, and all were isolated in hospital and recovered. One of these cases was found not to be diphtheria. Of the five cases of diphtheria two were children from the Lee Homes, one a child from Honley Grammar School and one a child from St.John's School. One of these four cases had been immunised. The other case was a Marine on leave who was removed to a Military Hospital.

Pneumonia.

9 cases of pneumonia were notified during the year. There were 7 deaths from this disease.

Para-typhoid Fever.

One case of Para-typhoid B was notified to me during the year. This was a boy from Thongsbridge who was isolated in Hospital and recovered. The one death shown as due to this disease was in an adult from New Mill who was removed to the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary undiagnosed and was later found to be suffering from Para-typhoid Fever. I was unable to trace the source of infection in either of these two cases.

Measles.

123 cases were notified during the last quarter of the year. 64 of these were in the old Holmfirth district, 39 from Honley, 20 from New Mill.

Whooping Cough.

7 cases of Whooping Cough were notified during the year. There was one death in an infant under 1 year of age from this disease.

Tuberculosis.

10 fresh cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 3 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified during the year. There have been 7 deaths from this disease, 2 from pulmonary and 5 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

NOTifiable Infectious Diseases during the year 1944.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	Over 65 years.	Cases admitted to Hospt.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	36		1	2	1	3	20	5	1	1		2		34	
Diphtheria	5					1	1	2		1				5	
Pneumonia	9			1						1	1	2	4		7
Erysipelas	7											4	3		
Para.Typhoid B.	1								1					1	
Acute Ant.Polio myelitis	1								1						
Dysentery	1											1			
Opthalmia Neonatorum	1	1													
Whooping Cough	7	2		1	2		2								1
Measles	123	2	6	16	5	21	71	2							
Totals	191	5	7	20	8	25	94	9	3	3	1	9	7	40	8

Hospital for the treatment of Infectious Diseases -
The Colne & Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Meltham.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
1 to 5 years	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
5 to 10 years	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
10 to 15 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 to 20 years	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
20 to 25 years	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
25 to 35 years	1	3	..	..	1	..	..	..
35 to 45 years	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
45 to 55 years	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
55 to 65 years	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Over 65 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	5	5	0	3	2	0	2	3

APPENDIX II.

Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	No. of Births.	Birth Rate per 1,000.	No. of Deaths.	Crude Death Date per 1,000.	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 births.
1940	227	12.12	271	14.47	8	35.24
1941	208	10.97	245	12.92	10	47.39
1942	255	14.09	233	12.88	12	47.05
1943	265	15.12	254	14.49	8	30.01
1944	298	16.90	244	13.84	10	33.55

BIRTHS.

298 births have been registered during the year, of which 155 were male and 143 female, 10 of these births were illegitimate, 4 male and 6 female. The birth rate is 16.90 per 1,000 persons compared with a birth rate of 17.6 for the whole of England and Wales. There were 11 still births, of which 7 were male and 4 female, registered during the year. One of these males was illegitimate. This gives a still birth rate per 1,000 persons of 0.62 compared with a still birth rate of 0.50 for England and Wales.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 10 deaths amongst infants under one year of age, compared with 8 last year. 8 of these were male and 2 female, all were legitimate. The causes of death were: premature birth 4, congenital malformation 4, whooping cough 1, broncho pneumonia 1. The infant mortality rate was 33.55 compared with an infant mortality rate of 46 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.

During the year 334 deaths were registered in the district, 90 of these deaths were persons belonging to other districts and were transferred out of the district; 36 deaths also occurred amongst persons outside the district, belonging to the district, and these were transferred back into this district. This gives a nett total of 244 deaths for the district; 107 of these were male and 137 female. The crude death rate is 13.84 per 1,000 persons, compared with a death rate of 11.6 for England and Wales.

Places of Death.

166 of the gross total of 334 deaths occurred in public institutions.

Ages at Death.

Of the gross total of 334 deaths, 8 were persons over the age of 90 years(1 being 100), 225 of persons over the age of 65 years and 74 of persons aged between 45 and 65 years.

Causes of Death.

The chief causes of death were: heart disease 63, cerebral vascular disease 41, cancer 34, bronchitis 14, violence 9, pneumonia 7, digestive diseases 6, nephritis 5, suicide 5.

Maternal Mortality.

There was one death from puerperal causes, non sepsis, during the year. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 3.23 per 1,000 (live and still births) compared with a maternal mortality rate of 1.25 for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATHin 1944.

The Registrar General's list of causes of death is as stated below:-

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	-	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	-
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	3
Syphilitic diseases	-	-
Influenza	2	1
Measles	-	-
Ac.Polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	-	-
Ac:Ing:Encephalitis	-	-
Cancer of Buc:Cav: and oesophagus (M)	-	
uterus (F)		4
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	3
Cancer of breast	-	5
Cancer of all other sites	11	10
Diabetes	-	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	15	26
Heart disease	26	37
Other circulatory diseases	4	2
Bronchitis	5	9
Pneumonia	6	1
Other respiratory diseases	2	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	2
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	-	-
Appendicitis	-	-
Other digestive diseases	3	3
Nephritis	3	2
Puerperal and postabortion sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	1
Premature birth	2	2
Congenital malformation and birth injuries	4	-
Suicide	3	2
Road traffic accidents	2	-
Other violent causes	3	6
All other causes	10	15
All causes	107	137

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. S. DAVY, M.B.

Medical Officer of Health.